SL: 44-775
JDD:jmb

FBI No.	21954B
Marital status	Single
Occupation	Laborer
Address	(August, 1954) Rural Route #3, Box 424, Florissant, Missouri
Relatives	Parents: SCOTT and THELMA WARREN, Florissant, Missouri; Sisters: (addresses not shown) IMOGENE TALLENT; BETTY WARREN; BARBARA WARREN; GERALDINE WARREN; SHARON WARREN; Brothers: (addresses not shown) SCOTT WARREN; HAROLD WARREN; PAUL WARREN; KENNY WARREN; FREDDIE WARREN; DELBERT WARREN; CHRIST WARREN

On April 30, 1968, Mrs. CHARLOTTE HEINTZ, Supervisor of Files, Commercial Credit Rating Company, St. Louis, Missouri, made available the file concerning one RAY E. WARREN, no age shown, known to that agency from September, 1964 to December, 1967, last known to reside at 2923 (2423) Barrett, St. Louis, Missouri, and last known to be employed as an Assembler with the National Vendors, St. Louis, Missouri, in July, 1966. This file indicated WARREN maintained a favorable credit rating and failed to disclose any derogatory information.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

SL: 44-775

JAMES DAVID DAILEY

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1
SL: 44-775
HRD: pdp

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

RE: RAY ASSOCIATES
J. D. DAILEY

On April 19, 1968, Officer RONALD BOCKENKAMP, Intelligence Unit, St. Louis Police Department, advised SA ROBERT L. BENDER that he had been acquainted with JAMES EARL RAY when RAY had been in St. Louis prior to his conviction for the armed robbery of a Kroger store in 1959. He stated further that one J. D. DAILEY, St. Louis Police Department number 68254, was also acquainted with RAY and in his estimation was the type of person who would offer RAY a place to stay, money, or whatever he might need to avoid apprehension. He described DAILEY as a gambler who formerly operated the Halfway Cafe on Jefferson Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri, and who during the middle of March 1968 moved to Portageville, Missouri, where he currently operates a bus stop restaurant under the name of LAFONTE. This restaurant is located on Highway 61 just outside of Portageville.

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1

SL 44-775
HRD:paw

RAY Associate: J. D. DAILEY

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

On April 20, 1968, Sergeant EDWARD SCHAFF, Intelligence Unit, St. Louis, Missouri, Police Department, advised SA EDMUND C. WELTON that at approximately 1 AM on that date he had received a telephone call at his residence from an attorney friend in St. Louis, whose name he would not disclose under any circumstances and who had told him that, in his opinion, JAMES EARL RAY might be hid out by an ex-convict named J. D. DAILEY on a farm owned by DAILEY near either Portageville or Wardell, Missouri.

SCHAFF stated the attorney indicated that JAMES EARL RAY in September, 1967, had been hid out by J. D. DAILEY at the Hathaway House, 1549 South Jefferson, St. Louis, which was formerly owned by DAILEY. The attorney had indicated he had been contacted in September, 1967, by DAILEY, and offered $1,500 if he could square the escape of RAY from the Missouri State Penitentiary. He had declined to do so, and had indicated he wanted nothing to do with the matter. The attorney had emphasized that his identity should not be brought into this case in any manner. Sergeant SCHAFF stated the attorney felt if DAILEY had anything to do with the subject he might hide him on his farm near Portageville or Wardell, Missouri.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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SL 44-775
HRD:paw

RAY Associate: J. D. DAILEY

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Sergeant EDWARD SCHAFF, Intelligence Unit, St. Louis, Missouri, Police Department, was telephonically contacted by SA ROBERT L. BENDER, on April 20, 1968.

Sergeant SCHAFF advised he had been in contact with an informant, identified only as an elderly attorney acquaintance known to Sergeant SCHAFF for over twenty-two years. He stated this attorney had indicated that JAMES EARL RAY was well acquainted with J. D. DAILEY, who is now residing in the area of Portageville, Missouri. Sergeant SCHAFF stated that he could not, and would not, under any circumstances reveal the identity of the attorney with whom he was in contact.

He stated that attorney indicated there was a good possibility that if RAY were in the State of Missouri, he could be hiding out on DAILEY's farm, which he felt was located in the vicinity of New Madrid or Kennett, Missouri.

Sergeant SCHAFF stated the attorney had called him at approximately 11 PM on the night of April 19, 1968, and had indicated that, although he did not know positively, he thought RAY could be hiding out on DAILEY's farm. SCHAFF emphasized that this was only a "connection" between RAY and DAILEY, and that his source, the attorney, did not know positively that RAY was on the DAILEY farm. He stated the attorney is well acquainted with DAILEY but has not talked to him in over a year and does not know RAY very well. The attorney is definitely not in touch with subject RAY.

Sergeant SCHAFF stated he had given the FBI every bit of information he has learned from his lawyer source, and that he would exclusively provide this office with any additional information coming to his attention which might possibly be developed pertaining to this case. He stated he had provided the Chief of the St. Louis Police Department with the same information but no other individual. He has not told anyone the identity of his attorney informant and would decline to divulge such identity to the Chief of the Department.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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SL 44-775
RLB/ral

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Re: ALLEGED ASSOCIATION OF JAMES D. DAILEY
AND JAMES EARL RAY

On April 23, 1968, Detective Sergeant EDWARD SCHAAF, Intelligence Unit, St. Louis Police Department, was interviewed by SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON and SA ROBERT L. BENDER.

Detective SCHAAF advised that he could provide no additional information which would place JAMES EARL RAY and JAMES DAILEY together. He said he had no other information which might be more specific with regard to any farm property that DAILEY might have in the Portageville area. He said that his source of information had indicated to him that there were two persons who might have additional information regarding DAILEY and any farm property that DAILEY owned, and these people were the man who runs the shoe repair shop located nextdoor to the Halfway Cafe on Jefferson and also VIRGIL DENTON who operates Denton's Bar, which is also in that block. Detective SCHAAF said that any type of information which came to his attention would be immediately provided to the St. Louis FBI Office. Every effort will be made to help in the investigation of RAY.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1
SL 44-775
RLB/ral

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Re: ALLEGED ASSOCIATION OF JAMES D. DAILEY AND JAMES EARL RAY

Police Officer RON BOCKENKAMP, Intelligence Unit, St. Louis Police Department, advised SA ROBERT L. BENDER and SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON on April 23, 1968, that at the time of JAMES EARL RAY's escape from the State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, he was assigned to the Third District, St. Louis Police Department (SLPD). This district covered the area surrounding Jefferson and Park Streets in St. Louis, the area which RAY was known to frequent.

On learning of RAY's escape, BOCKENKAMP stated he contacted a source of information that he thought might have some information about RAY. This source told him that "RAY had been in town for approximately a week" and JAMES DAVID DAILEY had been putting him up and had hid him out in the basement of the Halfway Cafe located on Jefferson.

As a result of this information, he (BOCKENKAMP) went to the Halfway Cafe, where he made a search for RAY but did not locate him. Detective BOCKENKAMP feels that unquestionably the information from his confidential source was accurate. Detective BOCKENKAMP further stated that his source of information knew both JAMES DAILEY and RAY and told him that he (the source) knew from personal knowledge that RAY had been put up by DAILEY.

BOCKENKAMP stated that this source of information was the same person who provided him with the information which led to the apprehension of THOMAS BEECHUM CREWS, who had also been harbored by DAILEY at the Halfway Cafe. CREWS is a very close personal friend of DAILEY and had made his escape from the penitentiary at Jefferson City after RAY had made his escape. DAILEY subsequently admitted to him (BOCKENKAMP) that he had hid CREWS out, had given him money, fed him and denied CREWS' request that he obtain him a gun. BOCKENKAMP said that his confidential source, whose identity he declined to make known, was a completely irresponsible local citizen who just happened to know some of the persons in the area of Jefferson, Park and Lafayette Streets. BOCKENKAMP said that he would be willing to confront DAILEY with the above information if it would be of assistance to the FBI in their investigation in instant

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matter. He also advised that he would be glad to recontact this source in an effort to determine the identity of any persons who might have personal knowledge of any association between JAMES EARL RAY and JAMES DAVID DAILEY. BOCKENKAMP said that both CREWS and DAILEY were boyhood friends, both coming from the Wendell, Missouri area, and it was very probable that THOMAS BEECHUM CREWS and JAMES EARL RAY served time together at the Missouri State Penitentiary, and RAY may have learned of DAILEY in St. Louis through CREWS, and in this way came to DAILEY for assistance after his escape.

BOCKENKAMP also stated that perhaps some investigation at the penitentiary at Jefferson City could throw some light on who may have assisted RAY in his escape and also determine the driver of the truck that RAY hid in when he made his escape. He stated that he thought possibly a St. Louis Police character, RICH RENO, was the driver of that truck and RENO is probably out of the penitentiary and back in St. Louis at this time.

BOCKENKAMP said that DAILEY had openly admitted to him and to Detective JOHN SIEBANMAN of the Intelligence Unit that he had on various occasions taken whisky, cigarettes and money to the area of the honor farm at the Missouri State Penitentiary and would throw these off on the side of the road so that the convicts could pick them up and take them back into the penitentiary. DAILEY corresponds with CREWS in the penitentiary and visisted him on numerous occasions.

Officer BOCKENKAMP emphasized that he has not and does not say from any knowledge that he has that JAMES EARL RAY and JAMES DAVID DAILEY were friends or even close or that they knew each other prior to RAY's escape, but he does say that some information received by him, which he feels is reliable, indicates DAILEY did put RAY up when he escaped, and when he (DAILEY) denies that he knows RAY he is a "liar".

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date April 24, 1968

JAMES D. DAILEY, residing at 402 West 9th Street, Portageville, Missouri, was interviewed at his place of business, LaFonts Cafe, Portageville, Missouri.

He was advised of the identities of SAs DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER and WILLIAM R. BURTON and the purpose of the interview.

DAILEY stated that up until about three to four weeks ago he had owned and operated a restaurant-cafe known as the Half Way House at 1549 South Jefferson Street, St. Louis, Missouri, and was residing at 2708 St. Vincent, also St. Louis, Missouri.

DAILEY stated that he cannot recall the name JAMES EARL RAY or ERIC STARVO GALT or any of the other names as furnished to him by the interviewing agents.

DAILEY stated that within the past several days he has looked at a picture of GALT which was in the Memphis, Tennessee, newspapers and he did not recognize it as anyone he has ever known or ever seen.

DAILEY was advised by the interviewing agents of the fugitive status of JAMES EARL RAY and at this time was also advised of the provisions of the Federal harboring statute.

DAILEY at this time reiterated that he does not know JAMES EARL RAY or anyone of a similar name or description.

On 4/19/68 at Portageville, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA WILLIAM R. BURTON
SA DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER DR/leh Date dictated 4/23/68

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 22, 1968

1.

JAMES D. DAILEY, 402 W. Ninth Street, Portageville, Missouri, was interviewed at his place of business, La Font Cafe, Portageville. He was advised of the identities of Special Agents CLETIS B. BIDEWELL and EDWARD M. MORELAND, and the purpose of the interview.

DAILEY stated he was unable to identify a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, St. Louis Police Department number 81071, as any person he has ever known or has ever seen. He displayed a cooperative attitude and related that the only escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, with whom he has ever come into contact is one THOMAS B. CREWS, white male, age 39, who escaped in September, 1967. CREWS and DAILEY were childhood friends from southeast Missouri, and after his escape, CREWS came to DAILEY for assistance. At this time, September, 1967, DAILEY was operating the Half Way House Cafe on South Jefferson in St. Louis, Missouri.

DAILEY, who knew CREWS to be an escapee, gave him $100 knowing he would probably use it to try to go to Chicago, Illinois, but he, DAILEY, advised against it. In conversation with CREWS he tried to convince him to turn himself in to the authorities. CREWS eventually went to a brother's house in St. Louis and was later apprehended by the St. Louis Police Department.

DAILEY related that HOMER TOWNSLEY, a St. Louis bondsman and former tavern operator was aware of his helping CREWS and he, DAILEY, strongly suspects that TOWNSLEY, who is also an informant of the St. Louis Police Department, particularly the Intelligence Unit, probably told them that he, DAILEY, had harbored an escapee from the Missouri Penitentiary and that this escapee was RAY. DAILEY also stated TOWNSLEY would probably try to get him in trouble because in the past he and TOWNSLEY had a violent disagreement over a "joint fleecing" they had been conducting on a victim, a retired U. S. Army Major, PAUL (last name unknown), Alton, Illinois, which amounted to thousands of dollars.

This disagreement resulted in TOWNSLEY hiring a small time hoodlum, JUNIOR CONWAY of Salem, Missouri, to smash windows

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On 4/21/68 at Portageville, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL
SA EDWARD M. MORELAND EMM:bam Date dictated 4/22/68

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in DAILEY's business place numerous times and CONWAY later administered to him a severe physical beating in December, 1965, which resulted in DAILEY receiving a fractured jaw. DAILEY stated all of this is a matter of record with the St. Louis Police Department.

DAILEY in February, 1966, retaliated by shooting CONWAY a number of times which shooting permanently paralyzed CONWAY in his lower limbs.

DAILEY emphasized he has never owned, leased, or operated any farm in southeast Missouri, or any other place, and further has never or at the present time have access to a farm through any other source.

DAILEY stated his wife and two children are currently engaged in operating his cafe at Portageville.

DAILEY stated he cannot imagine any situation in which RAY would contact him, but in the event any such contact is made or he develops any information concerning him he would immediately contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1
SL 44-775
JAF:amb

RE: RAY ASSOCIATES (J. D. DAILEY)

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by SAs JACK A. FRENCH and ROBERT J. WILKISON on April 20, 1968:

During the period 3:20 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. a very discreet surveillance of 2708 St. Vincent Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri, the previous residence of J. D. DAILEY, was conducted. This surveillance reflected that the residence in question bore a "for sale" sign which instructed prospective buyers to contact Irene Wyatt Agency, 1703 Simpson, telephone PR 2-8245.

At approximately 4:00 p.m. a physical surveillance of the Half-Way Cafe, 1549 South Jefferson, St. Louis, Missouri, reflected that it was vacant and all of the furniture and fixtures had been removed.

At 4:12 p.m. a physical surveillance of 2708 St. Vincent reflected that the residence was occupied and a young teen-age male was observed in the window.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1
SL: 44-775
RJW:klr

Re: JAMES DAVID DAILEY
ALLEGED ACQUAINTANCE OF
JAMES EARL RAY

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

The current St. Louis telephone directory listed the address for J. D. DAILEY as 2708 St. Vincent, St. Louis, and telephone number as TO 5-0449.

An effort was made to call the above number and it was determined the number had been disconnected.

Mr. and Mrs. JOSEPH B. HERRELL, 2708 St. Vincent, St. Louis, Missouri, on April 20, 1968, advised Special Agents JACK A. FRENCH and ROBERT J. WILKISON as follows:

They moved to 2708 St. Vincent on Marcy 23, 1968, and the house was vacant at that time. Mr. HERRELL is employed at Concord Homes, Bridgeton, Missouri (suburb of St. Louis).

They stated the former tenant was a man named DAILEY, who operated the Halfway House Cafe on Jefferson Street. When DAILEY moved, he left a black-colored German Shepherd dog at 2708 St. Vincent. The HERRELLs took care of the dog for two or three weeks, at which time DAILEY's sister, Mrs. (first name unknown) JACKSON, picked up the dog and apparently took it to DAILEY, who reportedly lives somewhere in southern Missouri.

They stated that mail addressed to DAILEY, sent to the Halfway House Cafe, was brought to their residence by an unknown youngster in the neighborhood a couple of weeks ago and they returned this mail to the Post Office about a week ago to be returned to sender.

They stated they rented this building from a real estate agent and never knew DAILEY. They said no one came

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to 2708 St. Vincent looking for DAILEY during the time they have resided at that address.

Visual observation of the Halfway House Cafe, 1549 South Jefferson, St. Louis, Missouri, determined the store room at that location is now vacant.

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/24/68

Mrs. HAZEL TERRELL, Wardell, Missouri, advised that she is the sister of J. D. DAILY who currently owns and operates a restaurant that he recently purchased in Portageville, Missouri.

Mrs. TERRELL pointed out that in addition to J. D. DAILY being her brother she has two other sisters; namely, ADA GILES who formerly resided at 1812 North Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois, but who recently moved and can be contacted through her daughter, VITA NEWTON, telephone number 421-2853 in Chicago, Illinois. Another sister LILLIAN JOHNSON resides at 2012 Sidney Street, St. Louis, Missouri. She pointed out that both parents are deceased.

She stated that their father, BARNEY DAILY was a ginner for a Mr. ACON's cotton gin, Wardell, Missouri, and they never resides on or owned a farm. She stated that she has never known her brother, J. D. DAILY, to own, operate or lease a farm noting that most of his life has been spent in a tavern business in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mrs. TERRELL pointed out that she has never heard her brother speak of JAMES EARL RAY and she has never heard him mention any persons acquainted with anyone allegedly connected with the Doctor KING assassination.

Mrs. TERRELL pointed out that in event she should learn that J. D. DAILY has any personal knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY she would immediately contact the FBI.

She also noted that she knew of no close friends or associates of J. D. DAILY's who lived on a farm or owned a farm in this area.

On 4/21/68 at Wardell, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA EDWARD M. MORELAND
SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY EMM:hcv Date dictated 4/23/68

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 4/24/68

SHELBY TERRELL, Wardell, Missouri, advised that he is the brother-in-law of J. D. DAILY being married to J. D.'s sister HAZEL.

He stated that he has known J. D. DAILY since 1946, although he has not closely associated with him because until about a month ago J. D. DAILY operated a tavern in the St. Louis area and only infrequently visited in Wardell, Missouri.

Mr. TERRELL stated that J. D. DAILY now operates a restaurant in Portageville, Missouri, and lives in that town having recently purchased this restaurant.

He stated that he has never known J. D. DAILY to own, operate, lease, rent or visit for any length of time on a farm nor does he know of any of J. D.'s close friends who own farms.

Mr. TERRELL stated that he has never heard DAILY mention JAMES EARL RAY nor has he talked about the assassination of Doctor KING. Mr. TERRELL noted that he has seen J. D. DAILY more frequently in the past month since DAILY owns a restaurant in Portageville than he has in the past fifteen years.

Mr. TERRELL noted that J. D. DAILY had three sisters; namely, HAZEL (SHELBY TERRELL's wife), ADA GILES of Chicago, Illinois, and LILLIAN JOHNSON of St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. TERRELL noted that in the event he hears any information at all that would indicate that J. D. DAILY had any contact with or any personal knowledge of JAMES EARL RAY he would immediately notify the FBI.

On 4/21/68 at Wardell, Missouri File # SL 44-775

SA EDWARD M. MORELAND

by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY EMM:hcv Date dictated 4/23/68

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1
SL: 44-775
EEB:jfb

RE: J. D. DAILEY - RELATIVES

On April 21, 1968, J. D. DAILEY's sister, Mrs. LILLIAN JOHNSON, 2012 Sidney Street, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone - MOhawk 4-5273, was interviewed by Special Agents ROBERT L. BENDER and EARL E. BROWN and furnished the following information:

Father - BARNEY DAILEY; Died around 1959, age about sixty-six. At the time of death he lived in house (not farm) about one-fourth mile north of city limits of Wardell, Missouri. Can be reached by turning right at a stoplight on Route 61, and then right again beyond Donohoe's Store. This house was owned by BARNEY, and is now LILLIAN's. It is rented to a family named STILL. STILL's wife is believed to be a Federal employee.

Mother - EVA (nee EDMUNSON) DAILEY; Died about 1938, age about forty-three. At time of death lived in town of Wardell, Missouri, two houses south of house now occupied by LILLY GASKIN (J. D.'s mother-in-law).

Children born to BARNEY and EVA DAILEY:

1. HAZEL (Mrs. SHELBY) TERRELL, about fifty, resides about three miles outside Wardell in house, but not on farm. SHELBY is unemployed;

2. ADA (Mrs. A. D.) HORN, about forty-seven. They are divorced. She resides at 1517 West Erie, Chicago, Illinois;

3. LILLIAN (Mrs. WILLIAM R.) JOHNSON, forty-three, housewife, 2012 Sidney, St. Louis, Missouri. WILLIAM is a self-employed paperhanger operating out of his residence;

4. JAMES DAVID DAILEY, forty-one. Resides at 402 West Ninth, Portageville, Missouri. Manages LaFant Tavern on Highway 61. Rents the house. Wife is BONNIE (nee GASKINS). Has been in Portageville five or six weeks. Formerly had restaurant at 1539

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South Jefferson, and owned house at 2807 or 2808 St. Vincent, both St. Louis, Missouri. House is now rented to family, names unknown, but who have current telephone - 771-8281. House rented through White Realty Company.

Paternal relatives - BARNEY DAILEY:

One-half brother, JIMMIE HILLEN. Age about ninety, resides in Pascola, Missouri, and now probably in a rest home for elderly;

Full sister, RUTH KING, single, sixty-three, resides at Memphis, Tennessee.

Maternal relatives - EVA DAILEY:

Brother, LLOYD EDMUNDSON. Resided on a farm in Rutherford, Tennessee, and now dead. His children migrated to Michigan and the Chicago area;

Sister, ELSIE (Mrs. LEON) BELL, deceased. She had three children;

Cousin - COY BELL, believed to have a furniture and appliance store in Rutherford, Tennessee. This is located about sixty-five miles from Portageville, Missouri;

Cousin - MAYMIE (LAST NAME UNKNOWN) and CROCKETT BELL, both believed to still live on the old farm of LEON BELL in Rutherford, Tennessee.

Regarding J. D. DAILEY's wife's relatives:

Father - deceased;

Mother, resides in Wardell, Missouri. This is Mrs. LILLY GASKINS.

LILLY GASKINS was married twice and is believed to have had a total of about eight children. The only ones known to LILLIAN JOHNSON are the following:

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SL: 44-775

BONNIE DAILEY, J. D.'s wife;

PEWEE (Mrs. EWELL A.) DE PRIEST; they reside outside Wardell, Missouri, hear "The Colony." EWELL works in a cotton gin;

TOOTSIE - She is married and lives on a farm about two miles outside Wardell;

There is a brother, MANSELL, last name believed to be GASKINS, but possibly a half-brother. He lives somewhere in Indiana.

She believes there may be several other brothers, sisters and/or half-brothers and half-sisters living on farms in the Wardell area.

BONNIE DAILEY is closest to her sister, PEWEE, and her mother.

J. D. DAILEY is probably closest to his sister, LILLIAN JOHNSON.

LILLIAN states she has never known J.D. or any of the DAILEYs to own any farm property. J. D. is not a hunter or outdoorsman. J. D. has not attempted to contact LILLIAN over the current week-end, and she last saw him about two weeks ago in Wardell. The only attorney she has heard J. D. refer to is JIM RANKIN, who is now dead. She has never heard J. D. refer to subject RAY, says she does not know subject RAY, and was unable to identify RAY from photos appearing on the Wanted Flyers.

Mrs. JOHNSON appeared to be straightforward and very cooperative, and states she will cooperate in this matter in the event she gets any indication whatever her brother is in any way involved with the subject RAY.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

SL 44-775
DR/leh

RE: JAMES D. DAILEY

The following investigation was conducted by SA DOUGLAS ROSENBERGER:

AT PORTAGEVILLE, MISSOURI

On April 21, 1968, the following persons residing in the vicinity of DAILEY's residence at 402 West 9th Street, Portageville, Missouri, stated they have never known DAILEY to own, lease, or sharecrop any farms or property in the area and they know of nothing that would identify DAILEY with subject, JAMES EARL RAY:

L.C. KEITH,
Rural mail carrier;

PECK BOON,
Clerk,
United States Post Office

Mrs. A.C. DACRES;

On April 20, 1968, the following business establishments all adjacent to DAILEY's place of business, LaFonts Cafe, advised they are only slightly acquainted with DAILEY as the operator of LaFonts Cafe for about the past three and one half to four weeks, that they know he rents a residence within the city limits of Portageville, Missouri, and they have never known him to own or lease any farms in the area:

OLIVER DALE,
Shell Service Station;

J.B. RAYE,
Phillips 66 Station;

JOE MC CRATE,
International Harvester Company.

On April 19, 1968, GENE LA FONT, owner of the Sinclair Oil Company and LaFonts Building, Junction Highway 61

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and 162, furnished the following information relative to DAILEY.

He stated that J.D. DAILEY came to his station about five weeks ago relating that he had heard an advertisement on the local radio concerning LaFont's Cafe being for lease or rent.

He stated DAILEY's wife and son and daughter were along with him, that DAILEY mentioned having lived at Wardell, Missouri, at one time, that he wanted to return to the Boot Heel area of Missouri and for about the past six or eight years had been engaged in the restaurant business in St. Louis, Missouri.

He stated that they talked at length concerning the rental agreement for the restaurant and that about three weeks ago, after making a final agreement, DAILEY opened and has since that time operated the restaurant. He stated there are no living quarters in the building where the cafe, bus stop and Sinclair gas station are located. He stated that DAILEY rents a residence at 402 West 9th Street in Portageville, Missouri, and is driving a 1968 Chevrolet Impala, brown with a black vinyl top.

He stated that in addition to DAILEY and DAILEY's wife, that his son, age approximately 12 years, and a daughter about 16 or 17, help him in the restaurant along with one full time waitress, LUTE MAE ARNOLD.

LA FONT stated that he has noticed nothing unusual about DAILEY, that he has noticed no strangers being in contact with DAILEY, and that he, LA FONT, has seen no one that he could identify with the subject, JAMES EARL RAY.

LA FONT stated that DAILEY would have access to the following phones:

Restaurant phone 379-9577
LaFont's Sinclair station 379-3502 and 379-9594
(pay phone)
DAILEY's residence on West 9th Street, 379-3136

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

On April 20, 1968, LUTE MAE ARNOLD advised that she is a full time waitress employed by J.D. DAILEY at LaFont's Cafe, that she has noticed nothing unusual since he took over operation of the cafe about three andone half to four weeks ago, and that she knows of nothing concerning subject, JAMES EARL RAY and any possible connection with DAILEY.

On April 21, 1968, the following individuals residing on Highway 162, running east and west from Portageville, Missouri, advised they could furnish no information relative to J.D. DAILEY owning, renting or leasing any farm property in the area nor do they have any information relative to JAMES EARL RAY:

CHESTER HICKS;
MAX HOLLOMAN;
A.B.WRATHER;
DE WITT MICKELS;
A.J. ROGERS;
DAVID BRASWELL;
L.G. LA FONT;
W.R. LATTA;
R.A. HOUSE;
J.M. RICHARDSON;
A.P. MOORE;
JOHN GLASTETTER;
BOB BARRETT;
C.J. KENNON;
S.F. LUKER;
RUBE SUTTON;
BURL ELLSWORTH;
BOB GEE;
W.H. FORREST;
TOM GRIBBLE;
R. BEIS.

On April 22, 1968, J.C. RANSBURG, New Madrid County, Missouri, ASC Agent, advised a review of his records failed to reflect any property listed in the name of JAMES D. DAILEY.

On April 22, 1968, the following officials of New Madrid County, Missouri, advised their records fail to list the name of JAMES D. DAILEY as being the owner or leasee of any property in New Madrid County, Missouri:

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Recorder, GEORGE BOONE;
Assessor, PRESTON UTTERBACH;

During the period April 20-22, 1968, the following officers stated they have no information to indicate that JAMES D. DAILEY owns, rents or sharecrops any property in the New Madrid County, Missouri, area nor do they have any information relative to JAMES EARL RAY having any contacts or relatives within that area:

Chief of Police JOE MOORE;
Portageville, Missouri

Chief of Police FRITZ MC KAY
Hayti, Missouri

Trooper W.C. CUMMINS,
Missouri State Highway Patrol,
Hayti, Missouri

Chief of Police JOHNNY MARTIN,
Lilbourn, Missouri

Chief of Police WILLIS WINGO,
Gideon, Missouri

Deputy Sheriff VIRGIL DEES,
New Madrid County, Missouri

Sheriff CLYDE ORTON,
Pemiscot County, Missouri

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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SL 44-775
EMM:hcv

The following investigation was conducted by SA EDWARD M. MORELAND and SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY:

AT WARDELL, MISSOURI

On April 20, 1968, Mr. WILLIAM RAY, Post Office clerk, identified himself as a childhood friend of J. D. DAILY. He said DAILY was born and raised in the Wardell, Missouri, area and left this area and went to St. Louis, Missouri, where he remained for over ten years. Sometime in March or April, 1968, J. D. DAILY returned to this general area and is now operating a restaurant in Portageville, Missouri. Mr. RAY stated that he has never known J. D. DAILY to own or operate any farm in this area. Mr. RAY also noted that he is not related to JAMES EARL RAY and said he has no relatives who are acquainted with the subject.

BENNY HOGAN, who resides north of Wardell, Missouri, stated he is vaguely acquainted with J. D. DAILY and has been advised by various persons who reside in this area that J. D. DAILY was born and raised in the Wardell area. Mr. HOGAN said about three weeks ago J. D. DAILY bought a restaurant at Portageville, Missouri, and is operating this restaurant with his wife. Mr. HOGAN said J. D. DAILY has never owned or operated any farm in this area and since his return to Portageville, Missouri, resides in a house in that city.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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SL 44-775
EMM:hcv

The following investigation was conducted by SA EDWARD M. MORELAND and SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY:

AT WARDELL, MISSOURI

On April 21, 1968, Mr. GLENN PETERSON and Mr. O. H. ACON stated that they have known J. D. DAILY since his childhood and explained that he was born and raised in the Wardell, Missouri, area. DAILY's father was employed by these persons as a cotton gin operator. They said to the best of their knowledge J. D. DAILY has never owned or operated a farm in this area. They commented that they owned more than 50,000 acres and a number of cotten gins and are familiar with the persons who are employed in the farming business in this county. They were unable to furnish any information concerning JAMES RAY.

They noted that J. D. DAILY left the Wardell area and was in some type of business in St. Louis for many years just recently returning to Portageville, Missouri, and is currently operating a restaurant in that town. They have never known of any of J. D. DAILY's family (whose father's name was BARNEY DAILY) to own a farm in this area. They noted that J. D. DAILY's sister, HAZEL, is currently married to SHELBY TERRELL who resides on the outskirts of Wardell just off Route A. Neither Mr. ACON nor Mr. PETERSON could furnish the current location of any other of J. D. DAILY's ralatives noting that his parents are deceased.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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EMM:hcv
SL 44-775

The following investigation was conducted by SA PATRICK W. BRADLEY and SA EDWARD M. MORELAND:

AT WARDELL, MISSOURI

The following individuals were contacted on Route A and extended section roads from Route A in the vicinity of Wardell, Missouri, towards Portageville and Bragg City, Missouri, in an effort to establish ownerships or renters of farms in the area. These individuals all noted that Mr. W. E. SMITH and Mr. O. H. ACON are the major land owners in this area each owning in excess of 50,000 acres, and that they never knew J. D. DAILY to be a renter or operator of any of the other farms or as a leasee of any piece of ground.

ALVA CLAYTON;
LAWRENCE ATWOOD;
L. E. BANKSTON;
E. M. CANVOY;
E. W. SANDAGE;
DAMON JOHNSON.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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SL: 44-775
WRB:klr

Re: INVESTIGATION REGARDING
JAMES D. DAILEY

On April 21, 1968, JEFFERSON M. HICKMAN, Sergeant, Missouri State Highway Patrol, presently stationed at Poplar Bluff, Missouri, but previously assigned to the Hayti, Missouri, zone, furnished the following information to SA WILLIAM R. BURTON:

He is personally acquainted with J. D. DAILEY, whose father, now deceased, was at one time a ginner for CAP ACOM of Wardell, Missouri. He advised that J. D. DAILEY had a reputation in Pemiscot County as being a small-time gambler and believed that DAILEY had at one time been involved in some stolen cars. To the best of his knowledge and information, J. D. DAILEY spent most of his time in St. Louis and would come to Wardell and vicinity on weekends or for short visits to his parents and his sisters who resided in that vicinity. HICKMAN stated that he has never had any information that any of the DAILEYs have owned any land in the Wardell or Portageville vicinity; never knew of DAILEY to lease any land and farm it as such; and never knew of DAILEY to have any close associates in his own age group in the Wardell vicinity who would have access to any farm land or any farm buildings.

On April 22, 1968, the following individuals searched their records and advised that they could find nothing to indicate that JAMES D. DAILEY or J. D. DAILEY owned any real or personal property or had any farm land in Pemiscot or Dunklin Counties, Missouri:

Mrs. OBIE COKER
Assessor
Pemiscot County,
Caruthersville, Missouri;

TOM CRUNK
Assessor
Dunklin County,
Kennett, Missouri;

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MARTIN BRITT
Agricultural Stabilization
and Conservation Officer
Dunklin County,
Kennett, Missouri.

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date April 24, 1968

BOBBY JAMES, Wardell, Missouri, advised upon interview that he is approximately the same age as J.D. DAILEY and recalled J.D. and other members of the family working intermittently on farm land operated by his father from the time they were small children until they became grown. He also worked for several years for the Acom Cotton Gin at Wardell, Missouri, where J.D. DAILEY's father, BARNEY DAILEY, worked for a number of years until he passed away a few years ago.

JAMES stated that J.D. DAILEY married one of the GASKIN girls of WARDELL and that her brother, HARLEY B. GASKIN still resides in the Wardell area. Another brother, CLEO GASKIN reportedly resides somewhere in St. Louis. A brother-in-law of J.D. DAILEY, one EWELL DE PRIEST, presently resides north of Wardell on Highway B. A sister-in-law, Mrs. STANLEY (ELIZABETH) BLURTON, is also believed to still be residing in the Wardell, Missouri, area.

According to BOBBY JAMES he has never heard of any members of the DAILEY family, the GASKIN family, the DE PRIEST or the BLURTON family being land owners in the Wardell, Missouri, area.

On 4/21/68 at Wardell, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA JACK J. FISHER
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL CBB/leh Date dictated 4/24/68

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date April 24, 1968

WO. JAMES, residing approximately two miles south of Wardell, Missouri, on County Highway B, advised upon interview that he has known the family of J.D. DAILEY since the time J.D. DAILEY was approximately five years of age. At about this time DAILEY's father, BARNEY DAILEY and the other members of his family began working as cotton choppers and cotton pickers on land farmed by Mr. JAMES in the vicinity of Wardell, Missouri. This type of irregular employment by the members of the BARNEY DAILEY family continued intermittently until the time J.D. DAILEY quit high school and drifted out of the Wardell area. On various other occasions subsequent to this time, J.D. DAILEY would return to the Wardell area and work for a short period of time on land operated by JAMES.

According to JAMES neither BARNEY DAILEY who is deceased or any of his children have ever owned or even sharecropped any land in the Wardell area to his knowledge. During the last several years of his life, BARNEY DAILEY operated a gin at Wardell, Missouri. He recalled that J.D. DAILEY was always considered a trouble maker and was always in some difficulty with the law in the local area and he heard that he was in similar trouble in the St. Louis area after he left Wardell.

Mr. JAMES furnished the name of other members of the DAILEY family as being HAZEL RANDELL TERRELL, presently residing a couple of miles north of Wardell; ADA JILES and LILLIAN DAILEY present addresses unknown.

He advised that BARNEY DAILEY was an individual who drank to excess when he was not working and the three daughters named above were generally considered in the community as being women of loose morals.

JAMES stated he was positive that J.D. DAILEY never owned, operated or sharecropped a farm in the area of Wardell and he knew of no individuals residing on farms in the general area who were close friends of DAILEY.

On 4/21/68 at Wardell, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA JACK J. FISHER
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL CBB/leh Date dictated 4/24/68

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 Date April 24, 1968

JAMES A. SELLERS, who resides on County Highway B, one mile north of State Route 84 in Pemiscot County, Missouri, advised he is chairman of the Pascola Township Agriculture Stabilization Committee of Pemiscot County, Missouri. In this capacity he had in his possession a Pemiscot County map reflecting the various townships of Pemiscot County with the names of the land owners written in on the land plots of the various farms within the townships of that county.

The maps of Pascola Township covering the area surrounding Pascola, Missouri; the Little River Township covering the Wardell, Missouri, area; and the Peach Orchard Township covering the Bragg City area were examined.

There were no farm owners by the name of DAILEY listed in any of the three above-named townships.

Mr. SELLERS advised he is 95 percent familiar with all of the land owners in the Pemiscot County area west of U.S. Highway 61 and north of State Highway 84 and there is no land owner by the name of DAILEY operating in that area.

He went on to state that in his capacity of township committee chairman, he is also familiar with tenants and sharecroppers in this area and he has never heard the name DAILEY mentioned in this capacity.

On 4/21/68 at Rural Route, Hayti, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA JACK J. FISHER
SA CLETIS B. BIDEWELL CBB/leh Date dictated 4/24/68

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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SL: 44-775
EEB:klr

Re: JAMES EARL RAY ASSOCIATES
J. D. DAILEY

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

HOMER TOWNSLEY was contacted at his residence, 2705 Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri, on April 22, 1968, by Special Agents ROBERT L. BENDER and EARL E. BROWN. He said he is now employed as a bail bondsman out of his house and has unlisted phone number PR 6-1879. He is usually at that address from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. He has given up his bar, The Neighborhood Bar, 1929 Hickory, and also his confectionary store, 3434 Caroline Street.

When contacted at his house by Special Agents BENDER and BROWN on April 22, 1968, he appeared to be completely cooperative throughout the interview, and voluntarily accompanied the agents to the St. Louis Office where he was interviewed.

He furnished the following information:

He knows the subject. Subject frequented his tavern at 1929 Hickory around 1958 - 1959. At that time, subject's mother resided on Hickory Street between 18th and Mississippi and subject resided in the vicinity on LaSalle or Park.

He said JACK ALLISON, who has been arrested for counterfeiting and served time in Leavenworth, knows the subject. ALLISON now is going straight and lives with a brother. ALLISON and this brother now have a television shop on Park Avenue west of Compton on the north side of the street, the third or fourth building west of Compton. JACK ALLISON probably will tell what he knows about RAY.

A man named SMITH operates a confectionary on Hickory about four houses west of 18th Street, north side of the street. The confectionary is in a basement. This is at about the address of RAY's mother. SMITH should know the mother, whether or not she is dead, and possibly know the subject.

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TOWNSLEY said he does not know WALTER TERRY RIFE. (RIFE was arrested with RAY, March 7, 1955, for the burglary of the Post Office at Kellerville, Illinois, and served time with the subject at Leavenworth.)

He said he believes a man named JACK or JOHN, who operates the Grapevine Tavern at Illinois and Arsenal, came into his tavern at least once with RAY.

TOWNSLEY said he gave up the Neighborhood Bar in May, 1967. He did not see RAY after RAY's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary in April, 1967. He heard from some source that RAY came back to St. Louis to kill a man. It was TOWNSLEY's recollection that the man RAY wanted to kill was responsible for RAY's arrest for the holdup resulting in RAY's sentence to the Missouri State Penitentiary in the spring of 1960.

TOWNSLEY said he has heard that RAY's family had property and relatives in southeast Missouri and the Poplar Bluff area sticks in his mind.

He said he cannot recall of hearing of RAY's father, any brothers or sisters. He has heard of no attorney used by RAY, nor any bailbondsman.

TOWNSLEY was then questioned as to whether he knew if RAY ever contacted J. D. DAILEY and stated he thinks J. D. told him RAY had contacted DAILEY after RAY escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary. DAILEY said that he had known RAY for a long time. He did not know that DAILEY had ever helped RAY.

TOWNSLEY said RAY could be with DAILEY in Wardell, Missouri. He said he could not figure out why DAILEY suddenly gave up his tavern and moved to Wardell. He said DAILEY had fitted it up with new, expensive equipment and when DAILEY said he was moving and selling the house he had bought, TOWNSLEY was

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very surprised and asked why. DAILEY told TOWNSLEY that the tavern had been inspected by a St. Louis building inspector who had found the wiring to be defective. DAILEY said it would cost over $500 to have the place rewired, that the landlord had refused to undertake the necessary repairs, and because of that DAILEY had decided to get out and take over a tavern in Wardell, Missouri. TOWNSLEY said this did not make sense to him and commented, "J. D. hates niggers with a passion."

On being specifically questioned, TOWNSLEY admitted that he had had a falling out with DAILEY. His version is as follows:

TOWNSLEY had been gambling with a man and had taken a couple of checks for the losses. This man then went next door to DAILEY's restaurant, started talking about it and was advised by DAILEY that TOWNSLEY could not collect on the checks if TOWNSLEY pressed him because they were gambling losses. TOWNSLEY learned of DAILEY's advice to this man, got mad, and told DAILEY he would knock his brains out. Later, J. D. apologized to TOWNSLEY, the matter was forgotten, and they again became friends.

When pressed upon this further, he said that the check writer in question was an Army officer from Illinois, that the reason DAILEY had given him such advice was because DAILEY was jealous TOWNSLEY had found a soft touch, and that now there were no hard feelings whatever between him and DAILEY.

When pressed further about this matter, he said that a man named CONWAY frequented his, TOWNSLEY's, tavern. CONWAY learned of the officer's welching on the bet and said he would take care of him. TOWNSLEY told CONWAY he did not need any help, pointing out that he had been a former amateur and professional boxer, and that he could whip DAILEY with one hand tied behind him.

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He said that nevertheless, CONWAY took it upon himself to further the argument when he was drinking and hit DAILEY, fracturing DAILEY's jaw. Thereafter, DAILEY shot CONWAY in cold blood, permanently paralyzing him. TOWNSLEY said he was in no way responsible for CONWAY's action, and later told DAILEY so. DAILEY agreed to TOWNSLEY that TOWNSLEY could take care of DAILEY and need not have gotten help, and they became friends again.

To point out that their differences had been patched up, TOWNSLEY pointed out that DAILEY had called him when DAILEY was leaving St. Louis for Wardell, and promised to give him his (DAILEY's) address and phone number so they could keep in touch.

TOWNSLEY said that upon further recollection, he remembers LUCILLE RYAN and remembered RAY's stating that RYAN was his mother, that RAY had visited her in RAY's visit to TOWNSLEY's tavern in the 1958 - 1959 era. He said that LUCILLE RYAN is now dead because of her drinking and that when she lived on Hickory Street, she was living with an uncle of JOHN, who runs the Grapevine Tavern at Illinois and Arsenal. He said this uncle is an old-time thief and is still living, and frequents the Grapevine.

This uncle is 5'9", 165 pounds, 55 to 60, unemployed, and has a criminal record. He talks very fast and around the Grapevine keeps talking of old jobs he has pulled so that a listener gets the impression the old man is crazy.

JOHN, manager of the Grapevine, has a speech impediment and will be uncooperative. He drives a white Thunderbird, 1964, or later, model.

TOWNSLEY said DAILEY definitely helped an escapee from Missouri State Penitentiary named CREWS.

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He denied that he has discussed this with anybody. He said he considers the lead at the Grapevine much better than a follow-up on DAILEY. He said that while RAY contacted DAILEY after RAY's escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary, he does not know whether DAILEY actually helped RAY.

He said a former barmaid, GRACIE WISE, 1920a Hickory, should remember RAY's mother, LUCILLE RYAN, should known who was living with LUCILLE and whether LUCILLE is dead.

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SL 44-775
EEB:amb **AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

Re: Alleged Association of JAMES EARL RAY and J. D. DAILEY

On April 21, 1968, HOMER TOWNSLEY advised SAs ROBERT L. BLENDER and EARL E. BROWN that RAY visited TOWNSLEY's tavern, "The Neighborhood Bar", 1929 Hickory, St. Louis, in the 1958-1959 period. TOWNSLEY said his barmaid then was GRACIE WISE who now lives at 1920a Hickory and she should remember RAY's mother, LUCILLE RYAN, now who was living with LUCILLE, and whether LUCILLE is deceased.

On April 22, 1968, SA BROWN attempted to contact GRACE WISE at 1920a Hickory but no response could be obtained. A note on the door for the gas man instructed him to obtain payment from the tenant at 1920 Hickory by going to the rear door. Inquiry there revealed that GRACE WISE has no telephone and is now visiting a daughter somewhere in Indiana. The address of this daughter, her name, and the length of the visit was unknown. She stated she would give GRACE WISE a note to contact SA BROWN at the St. Louis Office upon her return.

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1
SL 44-775
EEB/ral

Re: Alleged Association of J. D. Dailey and Subject

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

HOMER TOWNSLEY has advised that he heard, possibly from J. D. DAILEY himself, that subject contacted DAILEY when DAILEY operated the Half-Way Restaurant on Jefferson Avenue, and that such contact was made shortly after subject escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in April, 1967. At that time TOWNSLEY operated the Neighborhood Bar, located on the corner of Hickory and Mississippi, a few doors from the house occupied by subject's mother, known to TOWNSLEY as LUCILLE. A barmaid at the Neighborhood Tavern was GRACIE WISE, now residing at 1920 Hickory.

On April 29, 1968, GRACE WISE, 1920 Hickory, in response to a note left with a neighbor by SA EARL E. BROWN, telephonically contacted the St. Louis Office and advised she had returned to St. Louis from Indiana.

On April 29, 1968, she was contacted at that address by SA ALBERT J. RUSHING and SA EARL E. BROWN. She was unable to remember the subject. She remembered LUCILLE RYAN, and stated LUCILLE lived in a rooming house operated by a woman said to be LUCILLE's mother, and who was known as "Old Mary". A number of men lived there at various times, including one of LUCILLE's sons. From data obtained, it appears that this son was subject's brother JOHN RAY. LUCILLE also lived in a rooming house on Mississippi operated by a woman now about 96 years of age. WISE believes this woman, known as "Granma" is now somewhere in a nursing home. LUCILLE moved there after leaving the house on Hickory Street. This house is on the west side of Mississippi Street, in the block south of Hickory, and is the first house north of the alley. (Observation was later made of this house, and it appears to be vacant and probably condemned.)

WISE had no information regarding an "Uncle John" who may have lived with LUCILLE on Hickory. She knows J. D. DAILEY, but has no information connecting him with this matter.

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1
SL 44-775
EEB:amb

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Re: Alleged Association of JAMES EARL RAY and J. D. DAILEY

On April 21, 1968, HOMER TOWNSLEY advised SAs ROBERT L. BENDER and EARL E. BROWN that JACK ALLISON, who has been arrested for counterfeiting and served time in Leavenworth, knows RAY. He said ALLISON is now going straight and lives with a brother who has a TV shop on Park Avenue west of Compton on the north side of the street, the third or fourth building west of Compton. TOWNSLEY felt ALLISON would tell what he knows about RAY.

On April 22, 1968, SA BROWN contacted JACK ALLISON at his place of employment, the Union Electric Service Company, 3211 Park Avenue, telephone MO 4-8888. ALLISON owns this business and has never been arrested. He employs his brother, CHARLES EDWARD ALLISON, who has been in Leavenworth and who occasionally refers to himself as JACK ALLISON. ALLISON said his brother, CHARLES, started on a drunk on Sunday, April 21, 1968, and his whereabouts are not known. When he goes on a drunk it usually lasts a week. He is somewhere in the vicinity but even if located would be completely incoherent until he sobers up. He will drift back to the shop in the next several days after he starts sobering up and ALLISON promised he would then notify SA BROWN in order that he might be interviewed.

JACK ALLISON said he never forgets a face and he feels he has somewhere, sometime, seen JAMES EARL RAY. He cannot fix the time or place but feels it was probably several years ago in the St. Louis area.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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SL 44-775
RLB/jtc

RE: JAMES DAVID DAILEY

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

VIRGIL DENTON, Operator of Denton's Bar, 1553 Jefferson, residing at 1551a Jefferson, was interviewed April 23, 1968, by Special Agents SPURGEON J. PETERSON and ROBERT L. BENDER. Photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and JAMES DAVID DAILEY were displayed to DENTON who stated that he is well acquainted with DAILEY and he recognizes RAY as having been a customer in his tavern. He said that he has operated a tavern at this location and next door for the past 17 years, that he cannot recall specifically when JAMES RAY was in his tavern but presumed that it was prior to RAY's being in the penitentiary in 1960. DAILEY operated the Half-Way Cafe located a couple of doors from his tavern and as a matter of fact DAILEY purchased this cafe from him.

Prior to DAILEY taking over the Half-Way Cafe approximately three years ago DAILEY had a place of business, a tavern and restaurant, located near Caseyville or Collinsville, Illinois. DENTON knew of this due to the fact that on one occasion approximately two years ago DAILEY took him in his, DAILEY's, automobile over to this place and pointed it out to him and they actually went in and had some drinks. It is noted that DENTON explained that at this time DAILEY no longer owned this establishment but merely wanted to show it to him. DAILEY told him that he had had "hustling girls" at this place in Illinois, and had run into trouble with the law and apparently that was why he had moved to St. Louis. DAILEY has a very close friend who he visits at least once a month in Jefferson City Penitentiary whose name is CREWS and DAILEY has actually been to Jefferson City and made an effort to get CREWS out.

DENTON further advised that when CREWS escaped from the penitentiary in Jefferson City he was arrested in St. Louis, he thought, in either CREWS' brother's or sister's house. He said the police would have a full report on that. He further advised that CREWS has a no-good brother who is a wino and alcoholic who is still around town and wanders up and down Jefferson Avenue periodically. (It is noted that this brother of CREWS, the alcoholic, may be identical with the informant of

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Detective RON BOCKENKAMP who indicated previously that although the police records would not reflect it he had arrested CREWS as an escapee from the penitentiary in the same house in which his informant who provided him with the information lived.)

DENTON said that he could not associate RAY with DAILEY and could not put them together. DENTON said that he recalls when JUNIOR CONAWAY was shot by DAILEY in front of Dailey's Cafe. He said that if anyone had ever had "it coming to him" it was CONAWAY, that CONAWAY was nothing but a mean person who had broken his, DAILEY's, jaw and stomped on other persons, hurting them seriously and actually maiming them for life. CONAWAY presently lives in the country and DENTON states he has heard he is still as mean as ever and actually carries a gun and a club in the wheel chair that he is confined to.

CONAWAY's girlfriend, not his wife, OPEL, was working for him, DENTON, as a bartender at the time of this shooting. She is now married to a man named SHERRILS whose brother is J. D. SHERRILS and lives somewhere in the country. Her mother lives on Missouri Avenue, place unknown to DENTON.

DENTON further stated that he recalls that DAILEY had a friend who he thought his first name was KEN. KEN apparently was a gambler who played in the card games with DAILEY and they would get some guy in the middle. This individual at one time drove a Chrysler automobile, was a very dapper dresser, but DENTON did not know his name. DENTON was recontacted and stated that CONAWAY is currently residing in Salem, Missouri, exact address unknown, and OPEL SHERRILS' (phonetic) mother is VIRGINIA HILL and resides on Mississippi Avenue, the second house off of Park, and she could probably provide her daughter's current address.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1
SL 44-775
MJB/ral

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Re: ALLEGED ASSOCIATION OF JAMES D. DAILEY
AND JAMES EARL RAY

On April 23, 1968, Mr. LEO J. SPINO, owner and operator of the shoe repair store located at 1547 Jefferson was interviewed by SA SPURGEON J. PETERSON and SA ROBERT L. BENDER. Mr. SPINO identified JAMES DAVID DAILEY as a person with whom he is acquainted through his (SPINO's) knowledge that DAILEY ran the Halfway Cafe, located nextdoor to his shoe store. The wanted flier of JAMES EARL RAY was displayed to Mr. SPINO, at which time he stated that to his knowledge RAY was unknown to him. SPINO said he has never heard that DAILEY owned or had a farm. DAILEY did tell him, prior to his moving from the Halfway Cafe, that he (DAILEY) thought he had a good deal running a restaurant down in the country near Portageville, that he had a friend who owned a tavern and a restaurant there and this friend had offered him the opportunity to run the restaurant if he cared to move to that area.

SPINO advised that DAILEY had told him that the reason he had decided to move from Jefferson Avenue was because of the fact that the City of St. Louis would not approve of the wiring in the restaurant and it would have cost him (DAILEY) approximately $600 to make the necessary repairs to the wiring. SPINO said that to the best of his recollection DAILEY had moved to the country approximately five or six weeks ago. He has not heard from him since. The only friend he knew about of DAILEY was a man who came to the Halfway Cafe two or three times and sometimes more a week and participated in cardgames with DAILEY. SPINO explained that DAILEY apparently had a little gambling going on at the restaurant, and this friend of DAILEY would participate in the game and work with DAILEY. Actually the friend would be playing for the house. SPINO said he did not know this person's name, but the man was a white, male American, 45 to 50 years of age, 5 feet 10 inches, 165 to 170 pounds, medium build, grey hair - thinning on top, very well dressed with fine clothes, married - had a wife and teenage daughter. SPINO said that this individual when he first came to the restaurant drove a Chrysler automobile which had Illinois license plates on it, thought to be about a 1964 model. This car was apparently sold and the man appeared in a new 1967 Buick automobile, a "real dark brown bottom and black vinyl top". This Buick had Missouri license plates on it.

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SPINO said that frequently when this man visited the Halfway Cafe he would come into the shoe repair shop and have his shoes shined. SPINO noted that he no longer has a shoeshine boy and had no idea where his old shoeshine boy could be located. SPINO further stated that this individual must have been quite close to DAILEY as he appeared there very frequently over the entire period of time that DAILEY had the restaurant. DAILEY's wife left DAILEY on at least one occasion and went to California after putting out the work that she was in Arkansas. SPINO said apparently they have mended their differences and are again together.

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SL 44-775
JRM/leh

RAY ASSOCIATES -JAMES D. DAILEY

The following investigation was conducted by SA J. ROBERT MEIGS on April 23, 1968, at St. Louis, Missouri:

CATHERINE SKILES, Clerk in the Electrical Inspection Division of the Department of Public Safety, St. Louis City Hall, advised that her records show that on March 1, 1968, a letter was sent to KERMIT SIEGFRIED, 1637a South Jefferson Avenue, with regard to the premises at 1549 South Jefferson, which he owned. According to this letter, there was overload service and defective wiring at 1549 South Jefferson which must be corrected by a licensed electrical contractor to comply with city ordnances.

On March 12, 1968, a similar letter was sent to Mr. SIEGFRIED in which it was pointed out that this was the second and the last notice which Mr. SIEGFRIED would receive until further action would be taken.

KERMIT SIEGFRIED, 1637a South Jefferson Avenue, advised that he owns the premises at 1549 South Jefferson. He stated that the premises are vacant at the present time but that it had been operated as a restaurant known as Half Way Restaurant operated by JAMES D. DAILEY. He stated that DAILEY operated a restaurant at this address for something over four years and remained operating a restaurant at this address through the month of February, 1968.

SIEGFRIED stated that DAILEY had added equipment to his restaurant which needed large amounts of electricity which the old wiring in the building could not cope with. He stated that the building was subsequently examined by inspectors for the City of St. Louis and they found that the wiring was defective and must be replaced. SIEGFRIED stated that he does not know the exact cost to rewire the building but he did learn that to rewire from the pole outside of the building at the building it would cost $240. He said the inside wiring, of course, would be in addition to this. SIEGFRIED stated that he offered DAILEY three months free rent however he, DAILEY, would bear the cost of wiring.

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SIEGFRIED stated that DAILEY moved out in the early part of March without informing him that he was moving. He stated that he moved over night possibly due to the fact that the building would have to be rewired. He said that he understands that DAILEY now operates a tavern or eating place of some kind around Portageville, Missouri. SIEGFRIED advised that he is not acquainted with any of DAILEY's associates and knows nothing about his background or activities while in St. Louis. He said he is not acquainted with anyone named JAMES EARL RAY and the photographs of RAY are not likenesses of anyone he has ever known.

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SL 44-775
RLB/ral

AT ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Re: ALLEGED ASSOCIATION OF JAMES D. DAILEY
AND JAMES EARL RAY

On April 24, 1968, JUNIOR RAY CONAWAY was interviewed at his residence, Route 5, Salem, Missouri, by SA EARL E. BROWN and SA ROBERT L. BENDER. CONAWAY stated that he was well acquainted with JAMES DAVID DAILEY, but on observing the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY he stated that he did not know this man and had never seen him prior to observing RAY's photograph on television. He said that he would be glad to provide any information that he might have regarding DAILEY, inasmuch as DAILEY was the cause of his being paralyzed from the waist down and confined to a wheel chair. He stated that in September, 1965, he had been shot by DAILEY in front of DAILEY's Halfway Cafe located on Jefferson Avenue in St. Louis, Missouri. He said that from approximately 1960 to 1965 he had lived and bummed around the Jefferson-Lafayette-Park area and had become involved in several fights during that period of time. He said one of these fights was between he and DAILEY, who he had been told by someone had been hired to shoot him. He said as a result of this fight with DAILEY, DAILEY had his jaw broken and he (CONAWAY) was sentenced to the Workhouse. J. D. DAILEY had the reputation of being pretty tough and had a lot of contacts in that area and was known to have gambling going on at the Halfway Cafe. DAILEY has on several occasions travelled to Poplar Bluff, Missouri, where he gambled some place unknown to CONAWAY. CONAWAY advised that the only friend that he knew who was rather close to DAILEY was a man named JOHN MONICO, who ran the Haven Bar on Lafayette and who he (CONAWAY) thought may have made J. D. DAILEY's bond after DAILEY had shot him. Also, he was aware of the fact that DAILEY would gamble at a place called the Cedar Inn, located on the East Side in Illinois. He also recalled that there was a bondsman withwhom he was acquainted who also knew DAILEY quite well whose name was HOMER TOWNSLEY. CONAWAY said that he did not know anyone by the name of THOMAS BEECHUM CREWS. CONAWAY said that he has not seen DAILEY since the shooting and was still considering prosecution in this matter.

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CONAWAY introduced the Agents to Mrs. HAZEL HELVEY, who advised that she had formerly frequented the same area as mentioned above, but could provide no additional information to that provided by her brother. She stated that her husband who had formerly resided in St. Louis County was recently murdered and his body found in a field in Salem, Missouri.

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SL: 44-775

RELATIVES

JERRY RAYNES - FATHER

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HRD/leh

RE: RAY RELATIVES - JERRY RAYNES

AT CENTER, MISSOURI

The following investigation was conducted by SAs WILLIAM R. DUNCAN and JAMES A. DUFFEY on April 19, 1968:

Mr. JOHN RODGERS, Cashier, Center State Bank, advised that a Mr. JERRY RAYNES resided approximately 4½ miles southeast of Center, Missouri, on a small acreage he purchased at a Sheriff's Sale, September 6, 1967. He recalls having seen Mr. RAYNES at that time and described him as an elderly man. He stated the bank had an interest in the sale of the property. He has not seen Mr. RAYNES since. He suggested that Mr. HAROLD MAIDEN, next door neighbor of Mr. RAYNES would be a reliable individual to contact.

Mr. HAROLD MAIDEN, Route 2, Center, Missouri, advised Mr. JERRY RAYNES purchased property adjoining his in the fall of 1967. Mr. RAYNES lives alone and has two automobiles, a 1967 Nash Rambler, color tan, and a white over red, 1961 Plymouth. He stated that RAYNES is retired but has indicated he had eight children and had been married twice. Itis his understanding that the mother of the children is dead. Mr. MAIDEN advised he had observed a younger woman with two small children visiting Mr. RAYNES on occasional weekends, but that no other persons have visited him to his knowledge. He states that Mr. RAYNES appeared to be approximately 69 years of age. RAYNES has telephone number AM 7-3467.

These Special Agents personally observed the RAYNES property on the above date and noted it was located on a knoll next to the Center, Missouri, city dump. The house was small and appeared to have two or three rooms. One tan Nash automobile and one whiteover red Plymouth automobile were observed parked in the yard. Lights were on in the house and one male individual could be observed inside.

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FD-302 (Rev. 1-25-60)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date April 23, 1968

Mr. JERRY RAYNES, Route 2, Center, Missouri, was contacted at his residence. Both interviewing agents identified themselves to him by exhibition of their credentials and he was advised by SA DUFFEY that they desired to interview him concerning JAMES EARL RAY, who was believed to be his son. He was told of the seriousness of the investigation and of the provisions of the harboring statute by SA DUFFEY.

Mr. RAYNES stated he would willingly cooperate and conducted the agents through the bedroom and into the kitchen in order that they might see no one else was at the home.

Mr. RAYNES stated he is 69 years of age having been born [redacted] He was married to one LUCILLE MAHER, now deceased. Eight children were born to this marriage. Mr. RAYNES stated that his memory was somewhat fuzzy and that he experienced difficulty in recalling specific events. He stated that he doubted that all the children were his but was of the opinion that JAMES EARL, who had been born in Alton, Illinois, in [redacted], was his own child. He stated he knew nothing whatever of JOHN. One son, FRANKLIN, also known as "BUZZY," or "BUZZ", was killed in an accident at Quincy, Illinois, in about 1958. He has another son, JERRY, who is currently living in Chicago, Illinois. He has a daughter, CAROL PEPPER, who lives on Belleview Avenue in Maplewood, Missouri, and another daughter, MELBA RAY, whom he believed currently resides in Quincy, Illinois. He stated that MELBA was a mental case who had received treatment in the Illinois State Hospital at Jacksonville, Illinois. He recalled that there were two other children, MAX and SUSIE, who were given away by their mother after his separation from her. There current whereabouts are unknown to him.

Mr. RAYNES stated he had little contact with his children during the past 17 years, except for CAROL. To the best of his recollection he last saw JAMES EARL RAY, 17 years ago and has had no direct contact with him since. He was aware that subject had been in the penitentiary from news items and from information he had received from the children's mother, LUCILLE. He stated that she had become an alcoholic

On 4/19/68 at Center, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by SA WILLIAM R. DUNCAN SA HAROLD R. DOBSON
SA JAMES A. DUFFEY HRD/leh Date dictated 4/20/68

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